

REMARKS:

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 are currently pending. Claims 2-4 and 8-10 are currently being considered, of which claims 2 and 8-10 have been amended herein. Claims 6-7 have been withdrawn from consideration.

(A) Claims 2, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP 3,946,993 (**Morlin**).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, for the following reasons.

The Examiner has indicated that he is relying on the first embodiment of **Morlin** (Figures 1/a and 1/b).

Morlin discloses a first embodiment having a sectional pipe 2 open at both ends (see Figures 1/a and 1/b).

The first embodiment of **Morlin** fails to inherently or expressly describe the bottom wall of the container unit as disclosed by the subject application. The subject application shows a bottom 3 of a container unit in Figure 1(a), the bottom 3 is shown as a bottom wall in Figure 1(a), and there is a gas introducing hole 4 at a center of the bottom wall.

In the first embodiment of **Morlin** (see Figures 1/a and 1/b), the sectional pipe 2 does not have a bottom wall.

The first embodiment of **Morlin** fails to expressly or inherently describe the following features of claims 2, 8, and 9, as amended: “bottom wall,” in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection of claims 2, 8, and 9 should be withdrawn.

(B) Claims 3, 4, and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over **Morlin** in view of USP 2,653,801 (**Fontein**).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, for the following reasons.

Fontein and the first embodiment of **Morlin**, alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the bottom wall of the container unit as disclosed by the subject application. The subject application shows a bottom 3 of a container unit in Figure 1(a), the bottom 3 is shown as a bottom wall in Figure 1(a), and there is a gas introducing hole 4 at a center of the bottom wall.

In the first embodiment of **Morlin** (see Figures 1/a and 1/b), the sectional pipe 2 does not have a bottom wall. **Fontein** fails to remedy these deficiencies of the first embodiment of **Morlin**.

Fontein and the first embodiment of **Morlin**, alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claims 2 and 10, as amended: "bottom wall," in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn. It is submitted that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 should be withdrawn by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for examination.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/743,531**

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Reply to OA dated August 2, 2006

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due now or in the future with respect to this application, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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